(c) The main reasons for sickness are inadeuqacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, infrastructural constraints, faulty planning, managerial deficiencies etc.

(d) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia* includes institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees, Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a Comprehensive Policy Package which consists of *inter-alia* enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

The RBI has circulated revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc., on 16th January, 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation.

Revival of Small Scale Industries

†2486. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industrial units in the country and the number of closed units and the steps being taken by Government to make them operational;

(b) whether the Banks are cooperating in reviving these sick units and whether the Banks are following the instructions to grant loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs without any collateral security to set up any unit of small scale industry; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to enact any legislation to keep the small scale industry of the country alive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The number

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of small scale industrial units (registered and unregistered) in the country as at the end of March, 2002 is estimated to be Rs. 34.42 lakhs. Information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial Banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 2,49,630 sick units in the country as at the end of March, 2001.

The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units, which *inter-alia* include institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs), Special Rehabilitation Cells in Banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. The RBI has issued revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units in January, 2002 which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc.

Under the Credit Guarantee Scheme, the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for small Industries (CGTSI) provides guarantee cover in respect of collateral-free loans extended by eligible lending institutions to new and existing SSI units upto Rs. 25 lakh per borrowing unit. As on 30th June, 2002, 30 eligible institutions including 28 Banks have become Member Lending Institutions (MLI) of CGTSI. Upto 30th June, 2002, cumulative number of proposals approved under the scheme were 4954 for aggregate loan amount of Rs. 51.38 crores.

(c) Yes, Government is contemplating to enact legislation for the development of small scale industries in the country.

SSIs in Tamil Nadu

2487. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) how many of them have been declared as sick;

(c) how many workers were employed in these units;